

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Rejection of claims under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. The Examiner has pointed to specific deficiencies in claims 1, 13 and 15. The deficiencies in claims 1 and 15 have been corrected in the amended claims presented hereinabove. As regards claim 13, the Examiner contends that "the trimming devices" lack a proper antecedent basis. However, the Examiner is respectfully referred to claim 8 which recited this feature.

Rejection of claims under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Indave in view of Ritter. Claims 2-4, 8-10, 13, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Indave in view of Ritter, and further in view of Brown. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Indave in view of Ritter and Brown, and further in view of McGath. Claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Indave in view of Ritter, and further in view of McGath. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The invention:

The claimed invention includes the following limitations:

- (1) producing an endless, coherent web of insulating material from individual insulating panels,
- (2) advancing the web of insulating material; and
- (3) cutting a selectable length of the insulating body off the web of insulating material.

The prior art:

Indave discloses an apparatus for the continuous production of building elements. Two parallel grid mats 2 have longitudinal wires 2-3 and cross-wires 2-2 welded together at their crossing points. These grid mats and an insulating body 1 spaced from the grid mats are advanced in the production line. According to Figure 3 of this reference, the grid mats are conveyed from grid rolls. In the production line, straight link wires 2-1 are driven through the insulating body and welded to the grid mats at their ends. A cutting device 5 is arranged after the welding device 4, which cutting device cuts the building elements to the desired length (see Figures 3 and 4). The cutting device 5 cuts through the grid mats and the insulating body. As the Examiner concedes, Indave does not disclose the formation of an endless web from individual insulating panels.

The Ritter reference cited by the Examiner, namely WO 96/03234, corresponds to USP 5,647,110. References to portions of Ritter made by the undersigned below will refer to the US patent rather than the WO document. Ritter discloses an arrangement in which grid sheets G, G' are drawn from either side of a production channel and subsequently conveyed to shears 11, 11' which sever the grid sheets into grid meshes M, M' of predetermined length. See col. 4, lines 14-19. The two severed grid meshes M, M' are conveyed in spaced relationship into the production channel 2. In this channel, "individual insulating bodies I are fed ..." between the meshes M, M', with the "length and width of the insulating body I [being] preferably identical to the length and width of the grid meshes M, M' respectively." See the paragraph spanning columns 4 and 5. Thus, Ritter discloses use of individual bodies I of insulating material and of grid sheets G, G'. In the production channel, the web wires are conveyed from the side and driven through the insulating body and then welded at their ends to the grid mats. The welding device 30, 30' is followed by a device for trimming the projecting ends of the web wires. These

devices 35, 35' are followed by cutting devices 36,36' which "divide the finished ... building element B in the horizontal direction into ... two elements ...". The cutting devices 36, 36' of Ritter do NOT sever any insulating panels from the insulating web.

The Examiner has applied Ritter based on the contention that "Ritter et al. teach that it is known to provide either a reel of insulating material or individual panels of insulating materials I (see fig. 1)." However, this is an incorrect understanding of Ritter's disclosure. As has been established above, Ritter does not teach providing a web of insulating material, and it certainly does not teach the feature of producing such a web of insulating material from individual insulating panels.

Turning now to present Claim 1, it recites the combination of, *inter alia*, producing a web of insulating material from individual insulating panels, with such web being inserted between two wire mesh mats, and then a selectable length of the insulating material is cut off this web. As explained on page 2, lines 8-13, supplying an endless web of insulating material from a supply reel is a drawback of the prior art because it requires a sizeable space. The present invention provides a solution to this drawback of the prior art by providing an effective and practical way of creating the web at the site of the apparatus, thereby avoiding the need for a supply reel and the attendant large space requirements of such a supply reel.

It should be clear from the discussion presented above that neither one of the applied Indave and Ritter references discloses the feature of producing such a web of insulating material from individual insulating panels. Thus, the combination of claimed features is neither disclosed, taught nor even suggested in these references when applied either singly or in combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 clearly and patentably distinguishes the present invention over the applied references.

Brown discloses building panels comprising two facing sheets 20, 22 and a cured foam resin core 40 there between. The end faces have recesses 36, 38 for connecting the building panels. However, in order to form a connection between the building panels, rigid structural members 24, 26 are required.

McGath discloses a building structure consisting of interconnected building panels.

Neither Brown nor McGath includes any features which serve to bridge the above-discussed gap between the invention as recited in claim 1 and the combination of Indave and Ritter. Accordingly, claim 1 is also allowable over any combination of these references.

The remaining claims are all dependent on claim 1 and, thus, each is allowable therewith. Moreover, these claims include features which serve to even more distinctly distinguish the present invention over the applied references.

Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 2, 2004